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TRADE MISSION REPORTEDLY TO VISIT CUBA

PY011901 Paris AFP in Spanish 1050 GMT 1 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Jun (AFP)--It has been stated in local economic circles that an Argentine trade mission will visit Cuba on about 10 June to reach an agreement which would serve as a legal foundation for new operations. It was also reported that an interbank agreement will be signed to finance Cuban purchases in Argentina.

The sources added that the head of the trade secretariat, Alejandro Estrada, will head the delegation, which will include high-ranking officials of the international economic relations under secretariat.

Diplomatic circles commented that the departure for Havana on Monday of the new Argentine ambassador to Cuba, Rafael Vazquez, is related to this trade mission.

RELATIVES OF MISSING PERSONS ISSUE OPEN LETTER

PY011915 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 May 79 p 11 PY

[Open letter by relatives of missing persons]

[Text] To the state branches and the Argentine people:

The mothers and wives of missing persons of La Plata, Berisso and Escenada are once again addressing the state branches and men and women of good will, openly reiterating a question which we have asked ourselves more than a thousand times during a cruel and never-ending period:

Where are our missing relatives?

We are asking all kinds of questions; not only regarding their lives and what happened to them, but also about the fate of our Argentina as a civilized community.

A solid barrier of silence and indifference has closed around thousands of men, women and even children.

Justice has clearly shown its impotence in view of the outbreak of secret powers that kidnap with impunity and commit crimes which bring to mind the subversive violence the government wanted to eradicate from this earth.

Uncertainty has overcome thousands of people, subjecting them to the worst of torments and forcing them to doubt their moral values and rules.

This will obviously be a part of the chapter of our future history unless we urgently find a remedy to so much injustice and pain.

Because without the full enforcement of law and justice, reconciliation and peace among Argentines will never be achieved.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER ASSESSES ECONOMIC POLICY

PY011907 BUENOS AIRES NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0800 GMT 1 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Jun (Noticias) Gen Oscar Graffigna, commander in chief of the air force, today gave an analysis of the economic situation during which he stressed the importance of maintaining order. He emphasized that the army is necessary for the people because it is a "long and full of protection and discipline."

General Graffigna said: "It is true that the level of inflation is high and that salaries have not attained the desired level in accordance with the nation's capacity. But it is also true that things have been better in the external sector and that along with significant foreign currency reserves, we have recovered our credit and restored confidence in our country. Our exports have reached unprecedented levels and economic reactivation is already significant. In addition, we have an unusual country, one with full employment."

The commander in chief of the air force spoke during a dinner organized by the Argentine Association of Business Leaders, to which he was specially invited. During his speech, General Graffigna said that "it is important not to forget the socioeconomic situation we inherited from political leaderships before 24 March 1976. The mistakes made were so great that they leap into the sight of anyone who 'wants to see.'"

Graffigna first listed the characteristics of the economic situation when the armed forces took over the government. Graffigna then said: "It is inevitable that when we try to reverse the situation there are hardships and interests suffer. Not a few of those whose interests suffered resist change for obvious reasons of sectorial advantage."

The air force commander later emphasized the existence of a series of positive economic factors and said they provide "prospects for prosperity and welfare." He then asked: "Why should we be intimidated by competition? Why not take the attitude of our sports figures who frequently deal with competition in any field? Why should we want to play with a handicap--in economics it's called protectionism--and not try to win in healthy, open competition?" He added: "That is our goal. Nonetheless, it should be very clear that we, and nobody but us, will decide what is right for Argentine industrial development. We are set on encouraging this and making it increasingly competitive."

FORMER NAVAL COMMANDER CRITICIZES ECONOMIC PROGRAM

PY101742 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1142 GMT 1 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Rosario, 1 Jun (NA)--The former commander-in-chief of the navy, Adm Emilio Massera (ret), expressed his concern here "for those who do not have the courage and good faith to admit their mistakes and correct them." He also accused the present economic policy of "shaping Argentine society with rules which are not included in the fundamental documents of the process."

Massera spoke last night to the business association in this city on "the national reorganization process." In his speech, he maintained that "the modern vigorous economy which we proposed in the documents has been, in fact, distorted."

He then emphasized: "The economic policy, which is nothing more than an instrument of the national policy, has now become the national policy itself. Nobody can think that the armed forces are seeking a country in which the principal industry would be financial speculation, in which the countryside is subjected to a suffocating tax burden, in which industrial production would slowly be left unprotected until it becomes no one's responsibility."

"Nobody can say that the dream of our armed forces is a country more and more like a satellite and increasingly puerile, where statistics have become the objective while man has become an anonymous number--a country in which public health and education are judged by profits or loss, as if health and culture were business organizations."

In his opinion, this would soon entail the risk of "the state forgetting that its only purpose is the common good and thinking that its only goal is to make profits. I am sure that in the same way the armed forces prevented the moral degradation which a socialist fatherland would have brought, they will, with the same indignation, oppose a speculative fatherland."

These criticisms of the economic policy formed one aspect of Massera's speech. He asserted that "a future democratic solution is not being prepared, since an absurd fear of criticism results in the fact that the dialog--the little dialog there is--is being carried on with those who are certain to agree."

He indicated that "since there is no rush for elections, there is time to correct mistakes." He added: "As one of those responsible for many of these errors, I know it is not enough to correct them. We must also encourage a creative revolution before the loss of our compatriots' faith becomes any greater."

In another part of his criticism Massera said that "our foreign policy continues, as it has for several decades, without a coherent basis. This means that we continue to be excluded from universal history, and this can be seen more clearly in the insufficient firmness which we usually employ to defend our sovereignty."

Finally, Massera advocated "a nation in which each man can reach the highest level of individual freedom, compatiel with the solidarity demanded by the existence of other men--a man who not only competes, but also coexists with his fellow men."

He also encouraged the establishment of a "nation (?aware) of the role it wants to fulfill in the world, a nation in which the family will be valued as the essential nucleus of the society, a nation in which the youth will not be resigned to go through life without leaving behind evidence of their importance, a nation in which business will benefit the entire community, a nation in which the individual's labor will be valued with justice."

NAVY COMMANDER COMMENTS ON CURRENT PROBLEMS

PY011912 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2137 GMT 31 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 31 May (LATIN)--The commander in chief of the navy, Adm Armando Lambruschini, said today that he is confident Argentina and Brazil will soon hold constructive negotiations on the Corpus and Itaipu dam projects. In answer to a questionnaire submitted by foreign reporters, Lambruschini, a member of the military junta, said: "I believe that an agreement will be reached on the technical aspects of the problem of coordinating the Corpus and Itaipu projects, which represent a great amount of hydro-electric power. We hope positive negotiations will begin soon."

Regarding the border conflict with Chile in the Beagle Channel, Lambruschini said that Argentina is honoring the commitments of the Montevideo Act and continues to maintain its already known and inalienable principles of national sovereignty.

He added: "I believe that the concept of foreign policy which should prevail cannot be any different while preparations are being speeded up for the mediation of Pope John Paul II in a conflict which was abusively aggravated by the British arbitration award."

Regarding the Argentine nuclear program, Admiral Lambruschini said Argentina is being pressured so that if we do not comply with some requirements our requests for materials to carry out all stages of the fuel cycle and production of heavy water would not be supplied.

GOVERNOR DECLARES FLOOD EMERGENCY IN CITY OF FORMOSA

PY010215 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1438 GMT 31 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Formosa, Argentina, 31 May (LATIN)--Juan Carlos Colombo, governor of the northern province of Formosa, has declared this city of 70,000 inhabitants in a state of emergency due to the dangerous rise of the Paraguay River which has already forced the evacuation of 6,000 people throughout the province.

Report on Flooding

PY011856 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1455 GMT 1 Jun 79 PY

[Excerpts] Formosa, 1 Jun (TELAM)--The Paraguay River at the port of Formosa again increased this morning when all predictions indicated that its daily level of increase would diminish. Water height today reached 7.85 meters, 9 centimeters more than yesterday. Meanwhile, more people arrived at the evacuation center in this city, increasing the work of the provincial, city, security and police authorities who are aiding the persons affected by the floods in the outlying areas. The number of persons affected by the floods in these areas totalled 1,246 today. Supplies continue to be delivered to the evacuated families. Sanitary conditions are good. In Clorinda and Puerto Pilcomayo, the authorities are still aiding the families at the evacuation centers. Civil defense has reported the number of evacuees in Clorinda to be 2,113; in Puerto Pilcomayo and surrounding areas, 1,917; and in Pirane, 200 due to the flooding of the Tatu Pire Stream.

The Sanitary Works Institute has reported that there have not yet been any cuts in water supplies and that public faucets are still above the water level. The water intake is still operating normally since it is placed at a height of 10 meters. The same occurs with water purifying stations, which are all at the same level as the intake.

A decree appointed the government minister as the organizational coordinator and administrator for the operations to be conducted as a result of the state of emergency in this capital and in the cities of Pilcomayo and Clorinda. The sum of 100 million pesos was allocated for aid for these areas. In the Caho area all danger of flooding disappeared as a result of the continued decrease in the height of the Parana River. The river height this morning at Barranqueras was 4.73 meters and falling, and 11.30 meters and falling at Puerto Iguazu (Misiones).

In Corrientes, the significant decrease of the Parana River during the past few days brought the situation almost back to normal. The river height at Corrientes this morning reached 5.01 meters, which means that when the decrease amounts to a few more centimeters, the alert plan for coastal area and nearby islands will be suspended. Only the southern part of the province continues to have a slight increase at Esquina, where the height is 5.12 meters. The height at Hoya is 5.06 meters.

ELECTORAL COURT COMPLETES CANDIDATE REGISTRATIONS

PY011445 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Jun 79 PY

[Excerpts] The National Electoral Court made an appeal early this morning to the military junta, the parties and the citizenry to defend the democratization process and consolidate it. The court thus officially completed the preparations for the 1 July elections.

The officially registered candidates as of last night are:

Presidential and vice presidential candidates: Hernan Siles Zuazo and Jaime Paz Zamora for the Democratic and Popular Unity; Victor Paz Estenssoro and Luis Ossio Sanjines for the National Revolutionary Movement Alliance; Hugo Banzer Suarez and Mario Rolon Anaya for the Nationalist Democratic Alliance; Rene Bernal Escalante and Mario Gutierrez Gutierrez for the Popular Alliance for National Integration; Luciano Tapia Quisbert and Eufonio Velez Magne for the Tupac Katari Indian Movement; Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz and Jaime Taborga Torrico for the Socialist Party One; Ricardo Cotoira and Filemon Escobar for the Workers Vanguard; Valda Gonzales and (Benjamin Saravia) for the Bolivian Unity Party.

MINEWORKERS DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY

PY021656 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Jun 79 PY

[Text] The Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB] has decreed a state of emergency among its members because of the recent events in the Huanuni mining district. Juan Lechin Oquendo, executive secretary of the federation, said that the events in Santa Cruz and then in Oruro and Huanuni show there are intentions in official spheres to postpone the elections.

[Begin Lechin recording] We have been closely observing all the events, such as those in Santa Cruz, where it seems to all of us that there was shameless intervention by the authorities of that region, both military and civilian. What occurred in Oruro, and then in Huanuni, proves to us that there are premeditated [words indistinct] to postpone the elections and obtain a (?fraudulent) vote. The FSTMB has carefully studied all the details of the Huanuni incident which has no relation at all to the events in Santa Cruz, and we have decreed a state of emergency in all mining districts. [end recording]

Moreover, the Executive Committee of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB] has released a long communique to the press, condemning the events in Oruro and Huanuni, holding the paramilitary forces which are accompanying General Banzer in his electoral campaign responsible for them. Because of those events, and in defense of the democratization process, it has also declared a state of emergency among its members, warning that any attempt [words indistinct].

The secretary general of the Huanuni Mineworkers Union, (Mario Torres Salinas), also held a press conference at which he gave details of what had occurred in Huanuni. He blamed Banzer's followers for having caused the disorder. He also gave a list of the people wounded during the clash; it includes the following persons: (Isac Herrera) [several names indistinct], (Antonio Camacho), (Rene Caballero), (Teofilo Mendez), (Ines Peredo) and a person who has not been identified.

STRIKES ERUPT IN SAO PAULO, RECIFE, SALVADOR

PY011458 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 1 Jun 79 PY

[Excerpts] At a meeting held at the Vila Marian Sport Society, 2,000 workers of the Goodyear tire factory of Sao Paulo today decided to call a strike to demand a 30-percent wage increase, which has already been rejected by their employers. In Recife, Pernambuco State, half a million people today had no transportation facilities as the result of a strike called by bus drivers servicing the city. The strike erupted early this morning when several picketing groups occupied strategic areas and forced all buses out of circulation. Buses were damaged and passengers were hurt. The police were surprised by the strike and only took action late this morning. Some buses began to circulate at noon guarded by policemen. The Pernambuco police are in a state of alert.

Recife, Salvador Strike Reports

PY021640 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 Jun 79 PY

[Text] In view of the strike called by private school teachers, the Pernambuco State Education secretary has also decided to suspend classes in public schools, and 663 schools are now completely paralyzed in the greater Recife area. Teachers of private schools yesterday submitted their demands to the Regional Labor Court: an 85-percent wage increase, a basic salary equivalent to four times the minimum wage, and guaranteed job stability for their union representative. Meanwhile, the bus drivers' strike which paralyzed Recife's metropolitan area ended yesterday. The employers granted a 40 percent wage increase to the drivers and promised to study another 40-percent increase in 30 days.

Teachers of private schools in Salvador, Bahia State, are also threatening to go on strike Monday, a walkout similar to the 10-day strike they called in April, if their demands are not met. The Association of Employers continues to reject the teachers' demands an average 70-percent wage increase and the reduction of the number of students per classroom.

CARDINAL LORSCHIEDER OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHURCH-STATE TIES

PY302256 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1649 GMT 30 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Msgr Ivo Lorscheider has stated that the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops [CNBB] will cooperate with Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo's government in seeking a new social pattern which will make the elimination of extremely uneven wage levels possible. The prelate, president of the CNBB, met with Figueiredo 2 days ago and with Vice President Aureliano Chaves yesterday, thus making the first moves for an improved rapprochement between church and the state.

Lorscheider pointed out to Figueiredo the need to plan an overall social pact, and he also stated that the CNBB will cooperate by submitting ideas to the government aimed at the fulfilment of this objective. The prelate said that it is necessary to seek a new social pattern "to avoid the existing salary gap, which is a serious disease in under-developed countries." On the other hand, Msgr Luciano Mendes, secretary general of the CNBB, stated that this requires, as a first measure, the adjusting of current laws to the new situation and "we feel that the government is prepared to take the necessary steps."

GOVERNMENT SAYS IT HAS CAUGHT ARGENTINE SPIES

PY020023 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Jun 79 PY

[Text] In an official statement released this morning, the government has confirmed the announcement made yesterday by President Augusto Pinochet that Chile has discovered proven cases of acts of espionage by Argentine citizens.

At the same time Pinochet expressed his confidence that the current Argentine charges regarding alleged Chilean espionage will also be rejected, as they were on several occasions during the last 6 months of 1978.

The official communique, which was released by the National Director of Social Communications, (Luciano Vazquez), states:

"1. During the last 6 months of 1978 various charges of this type were made against Chilean citizens in Argentina which were afterward rejected by the authorities themselves or the courts of that country. We are confident that the current charges will also be rejected.

"2. When cases of authentic acts of espionage have been proven against Argentine citizens, the Chilean Government has always resolved the problem with the greatest discretion, recognizing the importance which maintaining the best possible relations between our countries must have.

"3. There is concern about the unusual publicity activities, official and unofficial, which are trying to link these events and charges with the course of the holy father's mediation. At the same time there is surprise that these charges are being formulated after statements made by high-ranking persons of that country which insinuated alternatives of other actions quite different from the current mediation, because just by mentioning them there has been a violation of the atmosphere of easing tension which the two countries promised to maintain in accordance with the Montevideo accord.

"4. Chile, despite its being the target of unjust attacks, will maintain its steady position of calm and seriousness in international affairs, convinced of the justice of its cause."

MATTHEI, MERINO DISCUSS FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

Matthei: Extradition Up to Courts

PY311350 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0147 GMT 31 May 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 30 May (LATIN)--Gen Fernando Matthei, member of the Chilean military junta and air force commander, categorically denied here today that he is discussing with Brazilian authorities the border dispute between Chile and Argentina over the Beagle Channel. Matthei, who ends his official visit to Brasilia this evening and who is leaving for Sao Paulo tomorrow to continue his visit to Brazil, held a press conference today which was very tense, so much so that Chilean Ambassador Fernando Zegers was forced to intervene to remind journalists that it was not a debate. A Brazilian journalist answered the ambassador by saying that "this is the way the press is in Brazil."

The press conference became very tense when Matthei answered the first question by stating that there was a series of "basic" errors and that he could not answer the question. The question concerned the reasons "the Chilean Government has for rejecting the extradition of the military officers involved in the assassination of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier in Washington.

General Matthei answered that in first place "involvement in an assassination cannot be assumed if it is not proved," and that in the second place it is not up to the Chilean Government to grant extradition, it is up to the Chilean courts. He explained that for the extradition to be viable there had to be sufficient evidence, and the only evidence included in the U.S. request was that of one witness, Michael Townley, who "gave false testimony on several occasions" and who "negotiated his punishment," which can be commuted "to less than 4 years" in jail.

He added that the Chilean Government is interested in solving Letelier's assassination in 1976 in Washington when a bomb exploded in the car in which he was riding. Matthei declined, however, to say whether the three military officers allegedly involved in the assassination, including Gen Manuel Contreras Sepulveda, former chief of the National Intelligence Directorate (DINA), will be tried in Chile. He noted that the United States has appealed the decision to refuse the extradition, and that since the final decision will not be disclosed for 2 months, he cannot give his opinion on a mere supposition.

General Matthei denied that he had described the members of the Geneva Human Rights Commission as stupid. He explained that when he was in Uruguay he used the term "hypocrisy" in reference to the procedure used by the Human Rights Commission. He said the commission was using "a double standard" because it operated in one way in Western countries and in another in socialist countries. A journalist asked whether there are human rights violations in Chile and Matthei answered that human rights violations are committed in every country.

About his visit to Brazil, the first a high-ranking Chilean official has made to Brazil in the past 5 years, Matthei said: "I did not come on my own." He said he was invited by Air Force Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos. He categorically denied that his visit has anything to do with the border dispute between his country and Argentina over the Beagle Channel, or with the U.S. threat to break relations with Chile as a result of the Chilean courts' refusal to grant the extradition of the three military officers involved in the Letelier case. He added: "The Beagle issue was definitely not discussed in my meetings" with Brazilian authorities because this problem has been submitted to the pope's mediation and it would not be ethical to discuss it now.

Matthei stated that however excellent Chilean relations with Brazil may be, they "cannot substitute" for Chilean relations with the United States. He noted that "the state of relations with the United States is an important issue for any country."

Concerning the political process in his country, Matthei said that democracy will be established within "a maximum period of 10 to 15 years." He added that the Chilean Government has shown that it is heading for democratization by opening up the economic, union and student process.

Merino: No Plans To Leave Now

PY312149 Santiago Chile ERCILLA in Spanish 16-22 May pp 29-31 PY

[Text of undated interview granted to ERCILLA magazine by navy commander and junta member Adm Jose Toribio Merino]

[Excerpts] [Question] Admiral, some people say that with the departure of General Leigh from the junta, the president has had smooth going, in the sense that he no longer has too many difficulties to overcome within the junta...

Merino becomes a little angry, but not extremely irate.

[Answer] There is no sense at all in that. Furthermore, it amounts to a lack of respect for us. It shows that no one knows what we do. This is the way it is: If, for instance, a given law does not seem to be good to any one of us, he does not sign it and that is the end of it. This is the only way in which Augusto can count on us. It is true that General Leigh voiced his opposition in some cases, but I can assure you, although people do not know about it, that there are others who voiced their opposition many times.

[Question] By the way, it is quite possible that the constitution will be voted on this year. How prepared are you for this eventual vote?

[Answer] All I can say on this matter is that I have just been given the draft, but I have not had time to study it. This is also being studied by the Council of State. I would like to say that on this matter we are completing a stage. We are not necessarily going to vote on anything this year.

[Question] Does President Videla bother you very much?

[Answer] Look, I have been rather cautious and I do not want to fly off the handle. I have been extremely annoyed by the fact that after the two countries agreed on a truce in their statements in order to maintain peace, one of the countries broke this commitment. Videla's statement does not contribute in any way to the pope's search for understanding, such as his saying that there are other valid alternatives. What does he mean by that? One can conclude that he means war, right? What does this character want, for us to do the same? This is crazy. A country which seeks to cut off a piece of our land should not come to us weeping dramatically.

[Question] Admiral, you are well known for being passionate and impetuous in your statements. Do you regret the things you have said?

[Answer] No, I do not tend to regret. I describe things as they are. I do not lie. Those who lie regret it. This can happen to politicians, but not to me.

[Question] Of course, there are truths which sometimes should not be said...don't you think?

[Answer] I believe that it is always good to say what one thinks.

Asked his opinion about the worst problem Chile is facing now, he said that its international relations "are not as bad as in previous years."

He said: "What happens is that behind all this--and Chileans have not forgotten this-- is Moscow communism, which has not been defeated in Italy, France or Germany and you can see that this 'poor' country was able to throw them out. But there are always enough unwitting fools like Kennedy, do not forget..."

[Question] How are current relations with the church?

[Answer] Let me say that from Rome things are fine. John Paul II is marvelous. He lived under Marxism and nazism -the two horrible slaveries which men have experienced--therefore he is doing the impossible to guide the church along a good path. If the man is able to spiritually hate communism, he will also be capable of destroying it. Now John Paul's image is reaching Chile. Our church understands this message.

Abruptly changing the subject, we asked Admiral Merino about relations with Bolivia.

[Answer] They remain the same, with no change, either for the better or for the worse.

[Question] And with Peru?

[Answer] They have become a little cold due to the situation we all know about. I am a friend of many people over there, Morales Bermudez among them. I believe that our relations can improve because, to tell the truth, they are not as cordial as they should be.

[Question] Is it true that there are plans to expand our merchant marine?

[Answer] We are striving to promulgate a very important law. It will be ready by 21 May. This is law number 466. It is indispensable for us to have more ships. Just think that 92 percent of our trade is carried on by sea. Can you see the importance of having ships?

Going back to Chilean matters, Ercilla told him that there are some people who say that more troublesome than the problems created for the government by opposition politicians are the problems created within the government itself by the difference of opinions within the various groups coexisting in it.

He said: "This is the first time I have heard about it. I never thought there might be people in the government thinking differently from each other."

[Question] Why do you think there are so many rumors about you leaving the military junta?

[Answer] I imagine that this is because I took a month's vacation in the summer instead of the 10 days I used to take. I just went off to think, and that is all.

[Question] What do you think and feel when you hear from some sectors: 'Military, go back to your barracks.'

[Answer] It does not bother me. I will not leave, nor will any of us leave, until we fulfill the commitment we made on 11 September 1973. And the country knows it. I will have to be taken from here dead before I am thrown out.

PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY FOR EUROPEAN VISIT ANNOUNCED

PA311952 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The San Carlos Palace has confirmed that 15 persons will accompany Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay on his trip to Mexico and Europe beginning on 7 June. The retinue includes Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas, Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva and Economic Development Minister Gilberto Echeverry. The president will also be accompanied by Arturo Gomez Jaramillo, manager of the National Coffee-growers Federation; Ernesto Mendoza Lince, manager of Avianca; and Salomon (Jacky), the president's personal physician.

The following persons will be in charge of the defense, economic development and foreign ministries during President Turbay's trip to Mexico and Europe: in the Foreign Ministry, Secretary General Julio Londono Paredes; in the Economic Development Ministry, Vice Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo; and in the Defense Ministry, one of the ministers who will stay in the country. The government has appointed Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra to act as Government Minister during President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's absence. German Zea Hernandez will act as delegatory minister [ministro delegatario]. President Turbay will go to Mexico and Europe on 7 June. So far, it has not been confirmed if he will visit the Soviet Union.

USSR Visit Cancelled

PA020423 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Bogota-- President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's visit to Moscow has been officially removed from the chief of state's agenda released by San Carlos Palace. The trip to Russia had been initially slated for 18-25 June, but according to the program announced today, the president and his party will rest on those dates before going on to Spain. Meanwhile, the president's letter to the Supreme Court of Justice notifies it of his trip, and mentions the following countries as the ones which he will be visiting at their respective governments' invitation: Mexico, France, Switzerland, Spain, Yugoslavia, and England.

Presidential Duties Delegated to Zea

PA021259 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The government issued decree No. 1243 today, by means of which it temporarily delegates presidential duties to Political Affairs Minister [title as heard] German Zea Hernandez. He will hold that post between 7 June and 7 July this year. In accordance with Article No. 121 of the constitution, the document empowers Zea Hernandez to issue legislative decrees; it also authorizes him to temporarily appoint ministers, chiefs of administrative departments, directors of decentralized institutes, superintendents, governors, intendants and local police officials. Whenever necessary, he is also authorized to summon and preside over the government's advisory and consultative bodies in such cases as provided by the law. According to the document's second article, the decree, dated 1 June, goes into effect on this date.

PRESIDENT TO ANNOUNCE ENDING OF STATE OF SIEGE

PA311925 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 May 79 PA

[Text] The government, through President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, will announce to the country tonight the ending of the state of siege. The chief of state will deliver a 50-minute speech over national radio and television to explain the reasons for his forthcoming trip to Europe. Article 121 will be rescinded once Congress approves the reform of justice which will permit the government to have new, more flexible mechanisms to confront any outbreak of subversion.

BOMB EXPLODES IN VALLE GOVERNMENT PALACE

PA012009 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] A medium-powered bomb exploded on the fifth floor of the Valle Department Government Palace this morning, causing serious damage to the walls, but no casualties. The violent explosion badly frightened the local government employees and they fled panic-stricken into the street. Valle Department Governor Jaime Arizabaleta is at present on an official mission in Bogota. The self-styled Popular Liberation Army took credit for the explosion in anonymous calls to different information media.

EPL REAFFIRMS MERGER OF GUERRILLA FORCES

PA031914 Paris AFP in Spanish 0313 GMT 2 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 1 Jun (AFP)--The Maoist People's Liberation Army [EPL] has reaffirmed in a communique which it sent to the news media here today that there will be a merger of Colombian guerrilla movements. In addition, the EPL claimed credit for the recent attack on the town of Acevedo in Huila Department in which four policemen were killed, and for several bank robberies. These actions, the communique states, were for the purpose of obtaining money for a revolutionary campaign in the country.

The EPL will unite with the urban M-19, the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the pro-Castro National Liberation Army, the oldest rebel groups operating in the mountains. The M-19, which has operated in the cities since it was founded approximately 7 years ago, has announced its intention to fight in rural areas. The merger of the seditious movements follows several years of alienation for tactical and ideological reasons, differences which led to the fall of the founder and top leader of the ELN, Fabio Vasquez Castano. It was noted that Colombian army intelligence organizations dealt heavy blows to the M-19 in the past few months.

RURAL GUERRILLA LEADER KILLED IN COMBAT

PA012010 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Diriano Vera Alape, the leader of the Ernesto Che Guevara Rural Guerrilla Front of the Popular Liberation Army [EPL], was killed in combat with troops of the 9th Brigade in the town of Acevedo, Huila Department. The subversive movement itself reported today in a leaflet that Vera Alape was shot by troops during the attack staged against the population on 2 February. A priest, Luis Valencia Rojas, was killed in the same attack and three persons were wounded. Diriano Vera Alape, alias "Pedro," was a cousin of guerrilla Sergio Alape, who wrote a book on guerrillas in Colombia. The EPL leaflet says that during the attack on Acevedo, Huila, which the rebels occupied for over 1 and 1/2 hours, arms, a large sum of money and other materials for guerrilla warfare were obtained.

DEFENSE MINISTER DENIES JEALOUSIES, PURGES WITHIN MILITARY

PA020405 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva has denied that any jealousies exist within the armed forces or that internal purges have been taking place. According to the high-ranking officer, Colombia's armed forces remain monolithically united. General Camacho Leyva made this statement in response to a press report which claimed that during the defense minister's absence--he will be traveling to Europe with President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala--the ministry will be headed by a civilian in an attempt to prevent any internal confrontations within the military.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED FOR BOUNDARY TALKS WITH VENEZUELA

PA022359 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The government issued a decree today appointing the committee members who will meet with a Venezuelan committee to discuss the mechanisms to be used when bilateral talks on the border dispute are resumed. The Colombian committee will comprise Senator Edmundo Lopez Gomez, Carlos Holguin (Salvi) and Julio Londono Londono, (?whose alternate will be) Capt Gustavo Angel.

SOLUTION TO IMMIGRANT PROBLEM WITH VENEZUELA SOUGHT

PA011453 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] The Colombian Government has announced that an agreement has been reached with Venezuela to obtain a solution to the problem of nonlegal immigrants. Labor Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal noted that in Venezuela the situation of Colombians who have even been residing there for only 1 year will be normalized. He added that the Colombian and Venezuelan labor ministries will commit themselves to establishing administrative mechanisms to regularize immigration quotas so that when indispensable, these can be acted upon without the intervention of third parties. The minister explained that this means that those who wish to enter Venezuela will do so through official agencies of both countries, thus preventing many persons from being tricked by unscrupulous persons who receive certain sums of money for obtaining the necessary documents for residing in Venezuela.

ASYLUM GRANTED TO 11 NICARAGUANS IN MANAGUA

PA011426 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Eleven persons who had sought refuge in the Colombian Embassy in Managua were granted asylum by the Colombian Government. The Foreign Ministry made the announcement, adding that the refugees may possibly come to Bogota on Sunday if Nicaragua agrees to give them the requested safe-conducts. The Nicaraguans who were accorded protection by Colombia are Pedro Joaquin Granados Flores; his wife, Xiomar Barcenas de Granados; their children, Alicia Maria, Xiomar Cristina and Maria Gabriela; and Berta and Nelson Barcenas Toral.

GOVERNMENT DECREES LARGE FUEL PRICE INCREASES

PY021809 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 2 Jun 79 p 4 PY

[Excerpts] The government yesterday decreed an increase in fuel prices, control of fuel sales and consumption and free import of petroleum. The new fuel prices in force are: regular gasoline, 78 guaranies per litre, a 56-percent increase over the old price of 50 guaranies; premium gasoline, 94 guaranies, an increase of 56,66 percent; diesel fuel, 37 guaranies, an increase of 42,3 percent; kerosene, 45 guaranies, an increase of 73,07 percent; fuel oil, 30 guaranies, an increase of 66,66 percent; aviation gasoline, 100 guaranies, an increase of 66,66 percent; turbo fuel, 50 guaranies, and increase of 61,29 percent, and liquid gas, 75 guaranies, an increase of 63,04 percent.

The decisions were made last night during a meeting of the National Economic Coordination Council which lasted about 2 hours. During the meeting it was also decided that REPSA "should report monthly to the Industry and Commerce Ministry on its production and the production forecasts of the supply markets."

Another of the decrees issued after the meeting of the country's highest economic organization established measures regarding the marketing of fuel to restrict its issue and consumption. The measures were:

- a) to prohibit vehicles to travel at speeds of over 80 km per hour; b) to prohibit fuel sales at service stations on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays; c) to prohibit diesel trucks from traveling with unregulated injection pumps; d) to limit the import of automobiles with high fuel consumption.

The general average of the various increases decreed by the government yesterday is 60.71 percent, which in many circles is considered exaggerated when compared to the real price increase of crude, to the REPSA profit margins so far and to the country's economic situation, which will now enter an inflationary stage that will be difficult to control.

Paper Asks Explanation

PY021840 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Jun 79 p 12 PY

[Editorial]

[Text] The national government has now decided to increase fuel prices and nothing that can be said here or anywhere else can change the course of events.

It should be said, however, that we fail to find any logical explanation for the percentage of the increases that have just been decreed. But this failure does not hinder us from ardently wishing that somebody could explain to the nation the reason why such a drastic strain is imposed on it, with a price increase that will have repercussions on all other prices and speed up the present trend of the gradual loss of our currency's purchasing power. We want this explanation, because we believe the future of the country depends on it.

It should be remembered that other nations are also enduring increases in hydrocarbon prices, but nowhere so steeply or so suddenly as here.

It is true that the oil-producing countries have increased the price of crude, but not even the greediest of those countries has made demands equal to the percentage of increase which has been decided here for finished products, in which crude represents only a small fraction of the total cost.

Time will confirm whether the fear we are expressing is founded. But the reason for decreasing the price increase and the rules that have been applied when ordering it should be explained immediately.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCES ACCEPTANCE OF YACYRETA II-A PROJECT

PY311323 Asuncion Television Cerra Cerra in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 May 79 PY

[Text] A meeting held this afternoon with journalists in his office, Foreign Minister Alberto Roque released a communique which indicates that our country confirms its desire to carry out the project for the hydroelectric development of Yacyreta. The communique adds that the reduction of the area of the nation's territory to be flooded has always been a matter of concern and a permanent and evident condition in the Paraguayan concept of the project--to prevent excessive, unnecessary and harmful flooding which could cause ecological damage. Consequently, the national government accepts the layout designated "II-A" worked out by the international consultants Lahmeyer, Arza and Associates, who maintain that it is feasible.

Editorial on Decision

PY020116 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 1 Jun 79 p 4 PY

[Excerpts] In view of the Paraguayan decision regarding the layout of Yacyreta, one could ask whether our government has fully weighed the very serious consequences this decision can have for our country. In effect, there is no doubt that the project, which was designed to become a frank and mutual binding link, has, with this situation, been postponed indefinitely [hasta las Calendas Griegas].

Could it be that our negotiators have so mistakenly evaluated the Argentine needs in the energy sector that they presupposed that that country must be compelled to accept any demand, no matter how absurd? Or on the contrary, is it because they believe the project in the end is not needed by our country? No matter the case, it is an error of appraisal that will be a burden for future generations.

It is not difficult to imagine that after this incident Paraguayan-Argentine relations will fall to their lowest level of this decade.

Apart from the consequences that have been noted, the national authorities will now be burdened with the expenditures originating from the unavoidable postponement of the project. Several million dollars have been spent in our country, without taking into account the work which has already been allotted and which is underway, and the contractign firms will have to be paid an indemnity due to the suspension of work.

But what will be even more serious is the psychological impact caused by the frustration of the great expectations that have been created, especially in the south of our country, which saw the great undertaking as a takeoff.

BODY CREATED TO COORDINATE FLOOD RELIEF

PY292021 Paris AFP in Spanish 1654 GMT 29 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] The Paraguayan Government has appointed a national commission entrusted with coordinating aid to the thousands of riverside settlers who have been affected by the worst floods known in this country in this century. The organization will function in the National Defense Ministry and will channel all state and private aid to flood victims. The Paraguay River floods today continued to create a dramatic situation all along the river, flowing through the country from north to south for over 1,200 km.

ARMY TO PROTECT VOTERS DURING 3 JUNE ELECTIONS

PA021325 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 2 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Gen Fernando Paredes Bello has said that the armed forces are ready to guarantee peace during the municipal elections which will be held on Sunday, 3 June. He emphatically said that Municipal Plan No.1 will be a success and that all Venezuelans will enjoy personal security when they go to the polls.

Early Returns Give Lead to COPEI

PA040314 Paris AFP in Spanish 0216 GMT 4 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 3 Jun (AFP)--An estimated return of 2 million votes, approximately half the valid votes cast during today's municipal elections in Venezuela, gives the ruling Social Christian Party (COPEI) an absolute majority in the nation's municipal governments. COPEI is carrying a national total of 52 percent of the votes but, according to the electoral system in effect, this will give it control of over 70 percent of the 191 municipal councils. Democratic Action (AD), the party that was in power until last March, is running second with 29 percent of the votes while the leftwing, which ran on a united ticket, has about 15 percent and will be represented in half of the city halls, according to the estimates.

Tonight, a local television station released the following unofficial returns with 2,080,715 votes having been counted:

COPEI	1,095,912	52.67 percent
AD	604,657	29.06 percent
Leftwing	297,334	14.29 percent
Others	82,812	3.98 percent

AD, which received 40 percent of the votes in last December's general elections--just a few hundred votes less than COPEI--noted the high abstention rate during this election, which its spokesmen estimate to be 40 percent. A total of 6,275,000 Venezuelans should have voted, but it seems that only a little over 4 million did so.

REPORT ON CUBAN REFUGEES AT EMBASSY IN HAVANA

PA021308 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Cubans Noriega and (?Rio Montes) returned to the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana today, just as the Venezuelan mission in Cuba had requested. These persons were hospitalized for 10 days as a result of the injuries they suffered during their violent entry into the Venezuelan Embassy grounds. The Venezuelan Government asked the Cuban Government to give them medical attention but under Venezuelan protection in their position as political refugees. The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry is expected at any moment to make known the situation of the 14 persons who have been in the Venezuelan Embassy in Cuba for 20 days.

SOLIDARITY COMMISSION TO DEPART FOR COSTA RICA

PA031644 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Jun 79 PA

[Text] A few minutes ago President Dr Luis Herrera Campins cast his vote at the Martinez Centeno Institute, located here in [word indistinct]. The president sounded optimistic about the public's attendance at the polls. The president's statements follow: [recording-indistinct] The president also announced that a commission will leave for Costa Rica within the next hours for the purpose of expressing the Venezuelan Government's and people's solidarity in the face of Somoza's attacks to the Costa Rican Government.

HERRERA CAMPINS PRAISES CARTAGENA MEETING

PA032215 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins speech upon returning from Cartagena, Colombia, where he attended the Cartagena Agreement summit conference--live]

[Excerpts] In Cartagena, I found an admirable and cordial atmosphere. I am deeply grateful to President Turbay's government for inviting us, to the regional government of Bolivar Department, to the mayor of the city and to the people of that important port. The welcome, the warm sympathy and the overwhelming friendship with which I, my wife and all the other members of the Venezuelan delegation were treated, is something that I will never forget. I believe that the Andean subregional pact was strengthened as a result of the Cartagena meeting. We decided to reactivate it in this second phase, after its first 10 years of activities through which an integrationist conscience was established which we still have to further develop. It is important that the Andean countries realize the need for working together in a united manner to expand our markets and production capacity and our economic, social, cultural and political spheres to make this group of nations, comprising approximately 5 million square km and more than 70 million people, a respectable political force on the continent and in the world.

Our foreign and domestic policies should be guided by joint effort. It is no longer a matter of governments understanding each other, but of having the understanding and support of the people so that integration can be considered a reality and that the participation of each country has the warm support of all social sectors.

I must also say that the one thing that really moved me in Cartagena was listening to the multilateral and bilateral meetings of the heads of state of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia and their decision to promote, without any hesitation, the democratization process which they have already started. This is extremely important because when we reach a democratic political homogeneity among Andean Pact countries, all the integration programs which we have been planning for years will doubtlessly fare much better. I must truthfully point out that if the meeting was a success it was because of the wonderful work that was carried out by the teams which prepared it. Therefore, I must say that the performance, among others, of our Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano and of Sebastian Alegret, president of the Foreign Commerce Institute, was really interesting and outstanding in this respect, and for this reason I am mentioning it to all Venezuelans in order to do them justice. We also discussed with Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala different aspects of matters pending between Colombia and Venezuela ranging from border integration to the demarcation of marine and submarine areas. For this we have appointed a commission comprising three Colombians and three Venezuelans to give us, in the first week of August, the norms that they believe should constitute the modus operandi for direct bilateral negotiations. In this respect, Venezuela and Colombia have agreed that we have sufficiently close ties of brotherhood, understanding and harmony to enable us to solve everything pending without having to rely on a third party for help.

Today, I am back in my country. I am pleased with the work that has been accomplished and am convinced that Venezuela must project itself abroad more each day. In order to do this, we must integrate and fully incorporate all Venezuelans through their participation. This is what I have been saying constantly. It is my determined decision to make this a different government, a government which considers the human aspect and what is fundamentally humane. I want this to be a government that, in each of its actions and steps, shows that its main concern is man. No government can be indifferent to man's fate. Fortunately, my government has shown great concern in this respect from the beginning.

VISA GRANTED TO SHAH; POSSIBLE VISIT TO ACAPULCO

WA011843 London REUTER in English 1835 GMT 1 Jun 79 WA

[Text] Mexico City, June 1, REUTER--The Mexican Government announced today it had agreed to grant the exiled shah of Iran a tourist visa to visit Mexico. Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda told a press conference the shah was to have picked up his visa today from the Mexican diplomatic representation in the Bahamas. It was not known if he did so or if he had already left. Mr Castaneda said the shah had no passport because it had been cancelled by the new provisional government in Tehran. Instead, the government had decided to issue him a form similar to an identity card issued to people who lose their documents, Mr Castaneda added.

Reports from the Bahamas aid the shah either was leaving there today for an undisclosed destination or had already left. Last April, Mexico rejected a warning by the new Iranian Government saying relations between the two countries would suffer if the shah were allowed to live in Mexico. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "We are not going to allow any government or country to dictate our policy." The shah's family owns an eight-bedroomed villa in Mexico's jet-set resort of Acapulco. Workmen began refurbishing the villa last January.

CP OFFICIAL OUTLINES PARTY'S ELECTION PLATFORM

LD311258 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1143 GMT 31 May 79 LD

[Text] Mexico, May 31 (TANJUG)--The Communist Party of Mexico has sought from the government that Mexico become an active member of the non-aligned movement. At present it has only observer status. This would enable Mexico to contribute to peace in the world and the struggle against imperialism, it is pointed out. Mexican Communist Party Secretary General Arnaldo Martinez Verdugo made a statement to foreign correspondents in Mexico stating the platform of his party's campaign for the July parliamentary elections, in which the Communist Party will participate legally and with equal rights for the first time. Martinez Verdugo stressed that the Communist Party supports the recent changes in Mexican foreign policy, which were apparent, above all, in the cool reception of American President Carter, the visit of Cuban President Castro and in the severing of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

Speaking further about Mexico's foreign policy, the Communist Party secretary general stressed that Mexico has not sufficiently expanded its foreign trade, which at present is too dependent on the USA, especially in the case of oil exports. The Communist Party of Mexico intends to appear at the next elections in coalition with the Mexican People's Party, the Socialist Revolutionary Party and with the Socialist Action and Unity Movement, however, although agreement has been reached on the election campaign, no common political platform has been completed. Martinez Verdugo is convinced that his party, together with the coalition, will achieve the number of votes necessary for its legality. He also hopes that his party could shortly become the strongest opposition political party too, that is the country's second strongest, following the governing Revolutionary Institutional Party.

PAPER VIEWS STATUS OF TREATY IMPLEMENTATION BILLS

PA011448 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 31 May 79 p 4-A PA

[Moyolandia Column: "Implementation of the Treaties"--Part one]

[Text] Fulfilling a journalistic mission, we will begin a series of articles today regarding the legislation which the United States must approve in order to make it possible to implement the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which have been signed and ratified by the two countries. It is necessary to make it clear here that the laws which must be approved by the U.S. Congress are vital for the implementation of the treaties because, without them, the new canal commission would not be able to even begin operating the inter-oceanic waterway. Both the regulations on which the canal operation must be based and the indispensable funds to cover the canal's operating, maintenance and service costs depend on these laws.

Little has been learned about what is happening in the United States in regard to this legislation which, as we have said, is absolutely necessary for the operation of the canal. Something has been said, but the large majority of us Panamanians know nothing about the real significance of that legislation and what is happening. In order to provide the mechanisms to implement the treaties, the U.S. Government drafted a bill known as "The Administration Bill," for approval by the U.S. House of Representatives. As a result thereof, representative John M. Murphy (Democrat, New York), submitted a bill amending the administration bill known as H.R. 111.

Although the administration's bill does not agree on all points with Panama's aspirations, it constitutes to a great extent a formula that takes into consideration the aspirations of both parties and is basically a practical instrument for the operation, maintenance and protection of the canal. There is no doubt that if it were approved in its original form, that is to say, without any amendment and much less with one of Murphy's amendments, we Panamanians would find many objectionable things in the legislation in question. However, viewing it with a practical eye and weighing its short- and long-term benefits, we Panamanians would learn to accept it and to live with it.

When the text of Murphy's amendment bill became known among Panamanian Government circles, the reaction was not long in coming. In addition to a resolution of the General State Council signed by Ricardo de la Espriella, Jr as acting president, President Royo visited the United States. This visit became especially important because it allowed Panama to clearly outline to President Carter and U.S. Congressmen its position in regard to the Murphy amendments. The fact that representations were made before the beginning of debates in the House of Representatives is particularly important.

COURTS MAY OPEN IN CANAL ZONE 1 OCTOBER

PA040320 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 3 Jun 79 p 1-A PA

[Text] Eight Panamanian courts will start operating in the Canal Zone as of 1 October 1979, according to a bill being drafted by the Panama Canal authority's legal commission.

Information obtained by LA REPUBLICA reporters indicate that the bill is being prepared by representatives of the Supreme Court of Justice and the circuit and municipal courts. According to the reports, the bill will create four courts within the Panama Province judicial jurisdiction and an equal number for Colon Province, to serve those sectors now under U.S. jurisdiction.

These new courts would include two penal and two civil courts for the Province of Panama, one of each at the circuit level and one of each at the municipal level. A similar setup would exist in Colon province. The information obtained from reliable sources points out that the courts in the Pacific sector of the Canal Zone would operate in Ancon, while those in the Atlantic sector would operate in Cristobal.

BPR MEMBERS TO BE ACCEPTED FROM EL SALVADOR

PA012217 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2135 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Panama City, 1 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--A spokesman for the Panamanian presidency told this agency this afternoon that his government will accept as refugees the leftwing youths who until today occupied the French and Venezuelan embassies in San Salvador. He hinted that the communique issued last night by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry announcing the end of Panama's mediation in view of the youth's refusal to accept the offer of asylum had constituted a "last means of pressure."

The members of the leftwing People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), who had seized the embassies to demand the release of their arrested comrades, wanted Panama to negotiate their departure from the two embassies and to guarantee their safety, but without their having to leave El Salvador. Panama had opened negotiations as a result of Panamanian President Aristides Royo's promise to his French counterpart, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, during a recent visit to Paris.

A group of Panamanian civilians and military, led by Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, who headed the team that negotiated the canal treaties with the United States, then traveled to El Salvador. Last night it was reported that, in view of the Salvadorans' refusal to accept asylum, the mission would return without them. But today, the presidency's spokesman confirmed to this agency that the Salvadorans will receive asylum and that they will arrive this afternoon on a French military plane.

RADIO DECREE 58 SUSPENDED BY GOVERNMENT

PA021441 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 2 Jun 79 p 1 PA

[Text] Decree 58 of May 21 regulating radio station activities in Panama has been suspended, the result of a meeting Thursday between President Aristides Royo and representatives of the nation's radio commentators. The commentators committed themselves to adhering to professional ethics in the pursuit of their duties, and a committee will be named to study reforms to the radio law.

MINISTER SAYS GAS PRICE TO INCREASE FROM 30-40 PERCENT

PA012008 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Commerce and Industries Minister Juan Jose Amado has said that the gasoline price increases which might go into effect in June range from 30 to 40 percent. In an exclusive interview with Radio Libertad newswoman Rosalina Pinzon, the minister said that the gasoline price increases will be adopted in view of the increases in the international petroleum prices. The minister said that the government will continue negotiating with the members of OPEC so that Panama will obtain guarantees for the supply of hydrocarbons next year at the best prices.

COSTA RICA

INTERIOR MINISTER REACTS TO SOMOZA'S INVASION THREAT

PA030505 Paris AFP in Spanish 0344 GMT 3 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Jose, 2 Jun (AFP)--If Costa Rica were invaded by Nicaraguan troops the Mutual Assistance Agreement signed by Costa Rica and Venezuela in September of last year would automatically become effective, Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria stated here today. However, he added, I do not think that Nicaragua is in any position to invade us or declare war on us in view of its serious domestic situation.

Echeverria's statements were in reply to Somoza's statements at a Managua press conference today threatening to invade Costa Rica if the OAS does not put an end to the aggression by communists coming from that country. Echeverria today inspected the zone of Guanacaste on the Nicaraguan border where the situation remains calm but tense. Intense fighting broke out this afternoon near the townships of Naranjo and Ostional on the Nicaraguan Pacific coast, near Costa Rican territory.

It has been reported here that 60 members of both the National Guard and the Sandinist Front were killed in the fighting, while 8 guerrillas are being treated at the hospital in the city of Liberia. The Costa Rican Civil Guard has adopted tight security measures in the region by establishing exist controls from the city of La Cruz, 20 km from the border, which has been closed since Tuesday. Some 50 trucks were lined up in that city waiting for the highway connecting the two Central American countries to reopen.

POSSIBILITY OF CONDECA SUPPORT TO SOMOZA DISCARDED

PA022349 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2215 GMT 2 Jun 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 2 June (LATIN)--Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Breaaley said that it would be difficult for the governments of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, all members of the Central American Defense Council (CONDECA), to commit themselves to giving military aid to the Nicaraguan regime of Gen Anastasio Somoza. He made this statement when asked about the rumors that these governments might decide to give military aid to Nicaragua at the next CONDECA meeting. At this moment, it would be difficult for any of the three governments, especially Honduras--which is experiencing a very satisfactory democratic situation--to give that type of aid, Echeverria said. He also indicated that Monday is going to be a very important day for Nicaragua. On that day we are going to see if the people will respond to the calls being constantly made by the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) to begin a general insurrection, similar to the one in Iran which led to the fall of the shah.

Echeverria assured the newsmen that there is absolute tranquillity along the Costa Rican border with Nicaragua. On the other hand, there has been plenty military action in the past few hours near Ostional and El Naranjo in Nicaraguan territory near the Costa Rican border. Echeverria Breaaley said that he had been informed that the city of Rivas, approximately 60 km north of the border and 120 km south of Managua, had been abandoned by the FSLN insurgents who had occupied it for the past few days. According to him, heavy fighting is occurring throughout the Pacific coastal region in Nicaragua. He has also been informed about fighting in the northern front near Honduras, but he said that he did not have any details on this. Echeverria ordered that public forces along the northern border be relieved and reinforced some strategic posts. He said that on Thursday evening and Friday morning, regular Nicaraguan troops had fired their mortars at Hill 353 in Costa Rican territory.

Echeverria stated: "A report on this new Nicaraguan attack has been given to civilian OAS observers who will confirm it with a field inspection." Hill 353 is approximately 4 km southwest of the border post of Penas Blancas. There is a similar hill near this, but it is on Nicaraguan territory. It is known as hill 308. FSLN sources reported that they are conducting a propaganda campaign among the National Guard to encourage desertions. The FSLN has constantly appealed to Nicaraguan officers to lay down their arms and surrender with a white flag. The rebels are guaranteeing them good treatment and to give them asylum in several countries.

When referring to that FSLN campaign, Echeverria said that the Costa Rican Government would be willing to give asylum to national guardsmen. "In this manner we would be contributing to solving the problems which are burdening our neighbouring country," Echeverria added. Echeverria has ordered an investigation into complaints by Costa Rican fishermen, who said that they had been attacked by Somozist forces. He also denied rumors circulating in San Jose that military personnel had flown Costa Rican helicopters over Nicaraguan territory near the border this morning.

EL SALVADOR

AIR FORCE PLANE MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING IN MANAGUA

PA011831 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0035 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 31 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Defense and Public Security Ministry revealed here tonight that plane 301, a DC-6 of the Salvadoran Air Force, made an emergency landing yesterday at Las Mercedes Airport in Managua, Nicaragua. A communique indicated that the plane left San Salvador at 0615 (1215 GMT) on 31 May for Panama to pick up merchandise for the Salvadoran Armed Forces Cooperative. It experienced trouble in engine number two, when it was over the Gulf of Fonseca, which forced it to make an emergency landing in Nicaraguan territory.

Yesterday, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) charged in a communique issued in San Jose that a Salvadoran military plane had unloaded armaments at Las Mercedes Airport. The Defense Ministry added that the necessary spare parts were sent to Las Mercedes Airport today aboard a Taca Airline flight so that the plane can continue its flight to Panama. It indicated that the plane carried as a passenger Col Oscar Ernesto Haeg, Chilean military attache in El Salvador, who was carrying out private activities.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT ASKED TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA

PA012304 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0448 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Committee of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People today requested here that the Honduran military government sever relations with Nicaragua. The petition was part of a public communique released this afternoon saying that the reason for the request is the conviction that "Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship in Nicaragua is able to exist only because it is supported by its relations with the governments [words indistinct]. It also requests that the Honduran armed forces government "not participate in the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance consultative meeting [TIAR], that the Nicaraguan Government has desperately summoned."

The committee also accuses the Guatemalan and Salvadoran governments of "supporting Somoza." "We have received reports--says the communique--that ships not belonging to the Nicaraguan armed forces have been shelling Sandinist positions." The Honduran Committee of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People adds that "Salvadoran planes have unloaded large amounts of war materiel at Las Mercedes Airport." Finally, it appeals to the people to end the violation of the national sovereignty "and to prevent foreign troops bound for Nicaragua from passing through our territory."

EVACUATION OF 44 STUDENTS FROM NICARAGUA ORDERED

PA011802 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1526 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--The government has announced here that 44 Honduran students who were attending the schools of agriculture and public administration in Nicaragua were evacuated today, Friday. Twenty-four of the students were attending the International School of Agriculture in Rivas, the Nicaraguan city that has been the scene of heavy armed clashes since mid-week. The rest were attending the School of Public Administration in Managua. The Honduran students were ordered to evacuate Rivas after it was learned here that Audy Cerrato Rivera, an agriculture student from Siguatepeque in central Honduras, had died of bullet wounds during a National Guard counterattack.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross confirmed Audy Cerrato's death to its Honduran counterpart and announced that the body had been cremated on the spot because it was already decomposing. The evacuation was carried out by the Honduran Government through its embassy in Managua with the cooperation of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, which was able to evacuate the students from Rivas in the first aid motorcade which arrived there. One of the students in Rivas arrived with his wife, a Nicaraguan citizen, who was included in the evacuation due to her advanced pregnancy.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE, ASSAILS COSTA RICA

PA021818 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1647 GMT on 2 June 1979 carries a live broadcast of a press conference by Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza. Somoza begins the press conference with an opening statement in which he says that weapons seized from those who invaded Nicaragua from Costa Rica were not stolen from the Nicaraguan National Guard but were obviously supplied to the invaders by officials of other nations, which he does not name. Somoza then says that he hopes the OAS will come to Nicaragua and investigate the recent invasion of Nicaragua from Costa Rica.

Somoza next turns to the fighting in the southern part of the nation, commenting that the invaders are now located at Hill 155 and that the National Guard will continue its efforts to dislodge them. Somoza continues: "The Nicaraguan Air Force has observed the movement of trucks and vehicles from Costa Rica (?to) El Naranjo farm. And now we have confirmation that wounded enemies are being treated at the clinic in La Cruz and the hospitals in Liberia. The night before last, helicopters arrived in Naranjo from Costa Rica to take the wounded to Costa Rica. We have (?destroyed) several vehicles (?and trucks) bearing Costa Rican license plates near Naranjo, indicating that these people are being [word indistinct]. My government denounces this act of aggression on the part of the Costa Rican Government because of the negligence they have shown and the mockery they have made against the OAS through the commission of observers."

"Here along the border [word indistinct] San Juan River we have (?had) groups of 20, 30, who have crossed and have engaged National Guard patrols in combat. When they see that they are losing, they again return to Costa Rica. In other words, this event in which they have probably exerted their greatest effort is simply an isolated event. It is a fact that they have occupied Costa Rican territory from Conventillos, Penas Blancas, the Cucaracha River, Los Chiles, and the San Pablo River to Tortuguero in order to launch attacks in Nicaragua." "Gentlemen, if our country were not bound to the OAS, Nicaragua would already be in open war with the Costa Rican Government. We hope that the OAS will honor the letter and spirit whereby the Americans have (?averted) many wars [words indistinct] of that organization."

Somoza then discusses the general strike called by the Sandinist National Liberation Front for 4 June 1979, saying: "I want to (?tell) the entire country that on Monday the National Guard will guarantee to all Nicaraguans their activities and their means of earning a living. Here in Managua we will (?have) 2,000 national guardsmen to give guarantees both to commerce and to industry, and I give notice to those who come to disrupt the daily work of people (?wishing to work) that [words indistinct] the violence which Nicaraguan laws allow us. Therefore, (?I warn) these groups which engage in stealing and killing innocent people that they will meet authorities (?bent) on maintaining peace and (?the constitution) of the republic, which guarantees all rights of Nicaraguans."

In answer to a question, Somoza says of the attitude of the U.S. Government: "[words indistinct] and that position of the U.S. Government has caused us and other countries much bloodshed. The U.S. position now is to watch events in Central America and Nicaragua."

'Invasion From Costa Rica'

PA021947 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1751 GMT 2 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 2 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--President Anastasio Somoza has stated that if Nicaragua were not tied down by the OAS, "we would already be waging war with Costa Rica." During a news conference held here today, Somoza reiterated that the San Jose government is an accomplice of the Sandinist guerrillas who are trying to topple him. Therefore, Nicaragua has been compelled to invoke the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (Rio de Janeiro Pact). The president said that he is warning the Costa Rican people about the situation which their officials are creating by getting involved in an adventure that may bring harm to them. He added that many Latin American countries are attentive to what is happening in Central America since they are not going to let the precedent be established that a neighboring country can send an invasion in through the border. "There is a long series of acts of aggression from Costa Rican territory. It is not possible for us to live hounded by Panamanians, Colombians, Venezuelans, Communist Spaniards and others from across the southern border," Somoza complained.

Further on Press Conference

PA021930 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1832 GMT 2 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 2 Jun (LATIN)--The news conference held by Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza today was characterized by serious accusations against Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo and the admission of heavy fighting against Sandinist rebels at the border with Costa Rica. During the press conference, which was carried over a nationwide radio and television network, Somoza affirmed that Carazo is trying to help the communist movement in Nicaragua because of commitments he made with communists in Costa Rica and with former [Venezuelan] President Carlos Andres Perez, probably for money.

He added that Mexican President Jose Lopez Portilla severed relations with Nicaragua because of an arrangement he made with Fidel Castro so that Mexican Communists would allow him to govern. They then turned Nicaragua into a sacrificial lamb. In answer to a question as to whether new Venezuelan President Herrera Campins is helping the Sandinist Front, he said: Not that I know of. He is not helping them. He said that the present attack against his government is the result of the fact that Perez supplied arms. Carazo supplied Costa Rican territory and Torrijos also gave arms.

CONDECA Aid May Be Sought

PA022250 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2130 GMT 2 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 2 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza has said that he is ready to call for the assistance of the Central American Defense Council [CONDECA] if the military situation in Nicaragua demands it. He made this statement at a news conference with local foreign newsmen. "I was one of the main promoters of the treaty that created CONDECA," Somoza told the newsmen.

President Somoza also said that neither the governments of Mexico nor Venezuela, which supply oil to Nicaragua, have threatened to halt the supply. He denied that threats to this effect have been made by Mexico and Venezuela.

He accused President Carter's administration of being the most aggressive U.S. Government toward Nicaragua since former U.S. governments had been characterized by their friendship toward the Costa Rican Government[as received]. Somoza said that Carter had become aggressive after the left wing in the U.S. Congress began campaigning against Somoza following his heart attack, when they thought that they would be able to overthrow him.

Somoza reiterated his accusations against Costa Rica. He termed Carazo Odio's government as negligent in taking a neutral position on the Nicaraguan conflict and of making a mockery of the OAS observer commission which is on the Nicaragua-Costa Rican border.

CABINET CALLS FOR PEACE, CONDEMNS FOREIGN CONSPIRACY

PA011339 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] The Somozist cabinet has made a call for peace, concord and brotherhood. It also condemned the international conspiracy promoted by communists. The Press Office of the Nicaraguan Presidency reported that during a meeting held yesterday afternoon, it was decided to make a call for the maintenance of peace, concord and brotherhood of the Nicaraguan people. The cabinet felt that it has a duty to denounce the international conspiracy promoted by opponents of the government with the deliberate intention of undermining the principle of authority and discrediting the institution of the state in order to violently overthrow the national government.

The Nicaraguan ministers and vice ministers indicated that they cannot hide their deep concern over the infiltration of Marxist-Leninist extremists in the premeditated plan of intimidating citizens, setting fires and committing assassinations and other crimes which have only caused suffering, destruction and death. Regarding the recent armed invasion from Costa Rican territory which is being repelled by the National Guard, they indicated that they condemn the foreign governments which are promoting violence.

VIOLENCE SPREADS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY IN SANDINIST OFFENSIVE

PA011542 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1458 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 1 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Army reported today that it has reduced the area in which Sandinist guerrillas are encircled in El Naranjo, near the border with Costa Rica. The army's Information Office indicated that the only option the rebels now have is to surrender. Yesterday afternoon artillery, infantry and air forces attacked the guerrillas' positions with great intensity.

The insurgents returned the fire with .50 caliber machineguns, powerful mortars, rockets and other weapons of lesser power. About 30 correspondents who were at Ostional, 4 km from El Naranjo, witnessed the fierce battle yesterday. The military Information Office again denounced "the Costa Rican Government's complicity with members of the 'international brigade' in permitting them to shell Nicaraguan territory from the base that they have in Conventillo, which also serves as a logistics support center for war materiel and personnel. [quotation marks as received] The latest military report does not refer to the situation in Rivas.

Government spokesman said yesterday that the guerrillas were withdrawing from that city in southern Nicaragua and that for this reason many roads were blocked by national guardsmen in Rivas Department. Meanwhile, Radio Sandino reported that 50 national guardsmen had died in the fighting in Rivas. The clandestine station also said that another Nicaraguan military plane had been downed in the El Naranjo region. In that area, the guerrillas reply with .50 caliber machinegun fire when T-33 jets and "push and pull" planes attack them in the hills of the region.

Meanwhile, there were outbreaks of insurgency in Managua last night. It was reported that the Rincon Espanol Restaurant, owned by a Spaniard, was held up. A group of masked men armed with machineguns held up the restaurant, in which six foreign news correspondents were eating. They stole the newsmen's watches, money and jewelry despite the fact that the latter identified themselves as newsmen. The unidentified individuals also fired their machineguns, causing property damage to the restaurant. Insurgents also destroyed a telephone office in Managua last night. It was also reported that there was intense shooting in the poor neighborhood of San Judas. There were no reports on the outcome this morning.

[San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT on 1 June reports that fighting between the National Guard and Sandinist guerrillas is continuing in El Caco, Nueva Segovia Department. "Initial reports indicate that there are many casualties on both sides and that there is a large number of wounded who have not yet been aided by the Red Cross." San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 1 June reports further that three Sandinists and one national guardsman were killed, according to information released by the Legal and Public Relations Office of the National Guard, in a brief skirmish on 31 May in the San Judas neighborhood. Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua at 1835 GMT on 1 June reports heavy fighting in Monimbo in the Masaya department and San Marcos in Jinotega. Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua at 1835 GMT on 1 June releases a communique from the Sandinist National Liberation Front Joint National Command on clashes between the National Guard and the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front maintaining that the Sandinists are managing to keep the city of Rivas "fully under control."

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2357 GMT on 1 June broadcasts information released by the Nicaraguan Army to the effect that the "Sandinists are losing ground on all fronts." The army communique further indicates that the national forces are in pursuit of the guerrillas who "are fleeing toward the southwest." San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 0138 GMT on 2 June carries National Guard Communique No 55 issued by Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar which reports the recapture of Hill 155 by National Guard patrols in the El Naranjo sector. The communique indicates that the hill had been seized "by members of the international brigade of communist mercenaries who had invaded Nicaraguan territory from Costa Rica" and that "the National Guard patrols are continuing their mission to take Hill 92, where the remainder of the communist mercenary invaders are located."

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 0155 GMT on 2 June carries a report from the National Guard military headquarters in Rivas indicating that after the clash with Sandinist guerrillas, 150 guerrillas were killed while some persons, interviewed by newsmen, said that "many national guardsmen had been killed" also, although no specific figure was released. San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 2 June reports that fighting was underway in Chinandega, 134 km from Managua, bringing civilian activities to a halt. San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 2 June carries a Radio Sandino report confirming clashes in Chinandega. Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 2 June reports the resumption of intense fighting along the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border where "several hundred Sandinist guerrillas" are involved in a clash with the Nicaraguan National Guard who are "using heavy weapons such as mortars, bazookas, 50 caliber machineguns and others." Further reports indicate that National Guard efforts to regain El Naranjo and El Ostional for the past 48 hours have been unsuccessful, the result of which, according to two Sandinists, has been the death of "a large number of Nicaraguan guardsmen" and "only one guerrilla combatant."

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 2 June broadcasts "that fighting is occurring in El Picacho Hill and El Calvario and La Estacion districts, which are key points in the city of Chinandega." While the FSLN "claims to have ambushed several National Guard patrols" causing several casualties, "military sources noted that at least 15 guerrillas were killed." Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 2313 GMT on 2 June reports that a skirmish lasting approximately 5 hours occurred at the El Viejo command post, 180 km west of Managua, when 50 guerrillas launched an assault on the post guarded by 20 men, "who repelled the attack with the help of military snipers who had been previously posted at a nearby church." San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 2345 GMT on 2 June releases a communique by the FSLN indicating that it has "managed to maintain and expand its control of the city of Chinandega in northwestern Nicaragua despite the fact that Somozaist airplanes have been shelling the outskirts of the city."

Paris AFP in Spanish at 0333 GMT on 3 June reports on a communique issued by the Foreign Press and Propaganda Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front accusing Somoza's forces of "using napalm in Rivas Department in an attempt to dislodge" the Sandinist guerrillas. Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish at 1514 GMT on 3 June broadcasts that the Sandinist National Liberation Front has claimed the "capture of the strategic town of Ostional near the Nicaraguan port of San Juan del Sur," and that further, they are "preparing to continue [their] triumphant advance toward the north." Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish at 1525 GMT on 3 June reports that the National Guard has announced that "it 'crushed' a number of rebel uprisings in Chinandega, El Viejo and Acoyapa, inflicting 67 deaths on the rebels, but it did not report on its own casualties." According to the communique, Hill 155 was recaptured where "powerful bombs were used." Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1839 GMT on 3 June reports that the Nicaraguan Army reaffirmed Sandinist losses in Chinandega and further adds that the guerrillas "have sustained 77 casualties in other parts of the country." Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish at 1917 GMT on 3 June reports that Oliverio Cano, the presidency's information secretary, has denied that "El Ostional has fallen to the rebels". San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 2245 GMT on 3 June reports a cessation of fighting in La Cruz as of 1500 (2100 GMT).

FSLN WARNS AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN WAR

PA031819 (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0300 GMT 3 Jun 79 PA

[Text] [passage indistinct] We expelled the Yankee invaders in 1933 after the army, defender of Nicaragua's national sovereignty, waged a difficult and heroic war led by our general of free men, Augusto Cesar Sandino. Any foreign invader can rest assured that once again we will expel from our fatherland anyone trying to intervene in this war, which is ours, because it is a war waged by an entire people raised in arms against a bloody dictatorship, raised in arms against an outlawed criminal gang which defends only the interests of Anastasio Somoza and his family.

The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] trusts that the Honduran Army and people will not participate in these maneuvers. The FSLN is asking the Honduran Government not to attend the Central American Defense Council [CONDECA] meeting that the fascist assassins and dictators of Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua are plotting to attack the Nicaraguan people. The Honduran Army and people should give evidence of their neutrality by not attending that meeting of traitors, the CONDECA meeting. If the Nicaraguan conflict extends beyond our borders, the responsibility would fall on the heads of these irresponsible men: Fernando Romeo Lucas, Carlos Humberto Romero and Anastasio Somoza, three assassins whose hands are bathed in the blood of their peoples.

This responsibility will also fall on the heads of those U.S. Government representatives who may be thinking of staging similar maneuvers in Central America in order to save Somoza. Somoza's friends within the U.S. Government and Congress and within the Pentagon should think carefully about taking this step before plunging the United States into a new international crisis, because the Nicaraguan people will not go back; because in the face of a foreign invasion, the FSLN will not step back either. We will oppose resistance, we will fight the invaders if they ever dare come to our country. It would be a more difficult war, but we would not retrogress. The Sandinist rifles, wielded by our heroic people, will defend our sovereignty against any foreign attack. So now, the CONDECA fascist gorillas know. The Yankee Somozist circles have been warned also. Keep your hands off Nicaragua. Free Fatherland or Death! We shall overcome!

U.S., GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR AIDING SOMOZA, FSLN CLAIMS

PA040215 Paris AFP in Spanish 0155 GMT 4 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Jun (AFP)--The government of President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua is receiving aid from the United States, Guatemala and El Salvador, according to a communique issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front and released here today. In the communique, the Sandinists note that on the night of 30 May and early morning of 31 May, several U.S. planes from Howard Air Force Base in the Panama Canal Zone carrying arms, munitions and supplies arrived at the military posts of Puerto Cabezas and Bluefields, in the Atlantic sector of Nicaragua.

The registration number of one of the U.S. planes was identified as 6210, the communique said. The note added that Guatemala and El Salvador are sending men, arms, munitions and material to Nicaragua in C-47 planes. The communique declared that such actions constitute an offensive interference in the internal affairs of Nicaragua and exhorted the people of North America and the world to reject the support their countries are giving the Somoza dictatorship.

RETIRED NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL ORDERED TO REENLIST

PA030245 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0155 GMT 3 Jun 79 PA

[Text] The supreme headquarters of the nation's armed forces, in the face of the invasion that has been carried out from Costa Rican territory, orders all retired officers, noncommissioned officers, enlisted men and former national guardsmen to present themselves immediately before the National Guard command post nearest their homes to rejoin the military service and defend our territorial integrity and sovereignty.

BUSINESSMEN ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN GENERAL STRIKE

PA011939 (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 1835 GMT 1 Jun 79 PA

[Text] The joint national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) has issued the following ordinance: The [word indistinct] the general strike decreed to begin on Monday, 4 June throughout Nicaraguan territory by the FSLN joint national leadership, all patriotic businessmen are urged to turn off, beginning at 1800 today, all neon signs, store window lights and the lights of all movies, restaurants, (?ice cream parlors), coffee shops, commercial centers, shops, stores, factories, hotels and gas stations in Managua and all other cities of the republic, and to keep them off until the [word indistinct] of the strike. The honest businessmen (?will) show their patriotism by participating in the general strike which will begin on Monday. Any Somoza followers owning stores or businesses and refusing to participate in this total blackout will be accountable to our units, squads and Sandinist [word indistinct], (?who) have precise instructions to enforce this ordinance.

[Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua at 1835 GMT on 1 June releases an FSLN message to "all the owners of bars, houses of prostitution, gaming places and any other center of vice or places where alcoholic beverages are sold" that they must close their doors immediately. The FSLN threatens "to proceed against centers of vice which remain open." Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua at 1835 GMT on 1 June releases an FSLN order to all banks in the country to close as of 4 June further indicating that they are "high priority military targets of the insurrectional war." Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua at 1835 GMT on 1 June releases a communique addressed to several airlines operating in the country advising them to cancel all flights in and out of Nicaragua, especially with respect to Las Mercedes International Airport, since this would be within the "scope" of their planned attacks and no "guarantee" can be given as to the "safety of the passengers of these airlines or the security of the crews and crafts." Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua at 1835 GMT on 1 June broadcasts a message ordering the immediate suspension of all movie showings in "Managua and all other cities in the country."]

CHURCH CONDEMNS TERRORISM BUT CALLS IT LEGITIMATE

PA031901 Paris AFP in Spanish 1639 GMT 3 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Jun (AFP)--The Nicaraguan church today again condemned acts of terrorism, although it granted them moral legitimacy because, it said, they are directed against a tyranny which violates human rights. The reiteration of the church's well-known position with regard to the bloody, prolonged war between the Sandinist movement and President Anastasio Somoza's regime is contained in a document issued by the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference. The extremist actions of the revolutionary insurrection affect us all, the episcopate noted, but it is not possible to deny their moral legitimacy in the face of a blatant and prolonged tyranny which violates the basic rights of individuals. The conference, consisting of six bishops of the small country, also denounced events which have become commonplace, such as the disappearance of persons, unjustified arrests, torture, the assassination of innocent persons and the profanation of corpses.

FSLN LEADER EDEN PASTORA INTERVIEWED BY NEWSMEN

PA040147 Paris AFP in Spanish 0125 GMT 4 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, 3 Jun (AFP)--The Sandinist National Liberation Front is in control of Nicaraguan territory located between the border and the town of Naranjo, some 5 km farther north, according to Costa Rican reporters who visited the area today.

Representatives of several communications media crossed the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, on the Pacific coast, and were able to reach the outskirts of Naranjo, where they interviewed Commander Eden Pastora, chief of the Sandinist forces in southern Nicaragua. Pastora announced that the Sandinists will take the town of Ostional, some 2 km to the north, and that their objective is to reach the city of Rivas in the next 48 hours. We have the equipment and men necessary to assure the Nicaraguan people that the southern front forces will take the city of Rivas, Pastora emphasized.

OPPOSITION LEADER TUNNERMAN ON DOMESTIC SITUATION

PA011809 Paris AFP in Spanish 2313 GMT 31 May 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 31 May (AFP)--In an interview granted to AFP, Carlos Tunnerman, a member of the Group of 12, affirmed here today that Gen Anastasio Somoza is trying to internationalize the Nicaraguan conflict, as he has done every time he has been faced with a critical situation. This explains the threats to Costa Rica and the summoning of a consultative meeting of the OAS, affirmed Tunnerman, who believes that Somoza would like the OAS to intervene to neutralize the Sandinist offensive currently underway in Nicaragua. Tunnerman said that he is convinced that the time is coming when the Sandinist Front could inflict a military defeat on the National Guard (the Nicaraguan Army).

The National Guard presently has some 15,000 members, while it is estimated that there are between 3,000 to 5,000 Sandinist guerrillas. However, Tunnerman claimed, the army is fighting without ideals and although it has maintained its unity until now, it can not resist the thrust of an entire people. Although he acknowledged that he could not affirm if the present guerrilla offensive would be the one to topple Somoza, he emphasized that at the moment, the troops loyal to the regime are being intensely attacked on all fronts, which has resulted in severe casualties to their ranks.

Regarding the political aspect, Tunnerman reiterated the importance of achieving the unity of the opposition and of speeding up the talks already underway between the National Patriotic Front and the Broad Opposition Front to draft a tentative government program. That program, the outlines of which were published on Monday by the Managua newspaper LA PRENSA, contemplates among other things the formation of a national unity government, the reorganization of the army and the expropriation of the Somoza family's wealth. That government, [which would be] formed by all the opposition forces that have participated in the struggle against Somoza, will have to carry out the minimum program of national reconstruction and establish a foundation for the restoration of democracy in the country, Tunnerman added. Our goal, he concluded, is that in a relatively short period of 3 or 4 years, the Nicaraguan people can be summoned to vote in clean and honest elections.

CAPTURED GUARDSMAN ASKS FOR STOP TO KILLINGS

PA030432 Paris AFP in Spanish 0401 GMT 3 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 2 Jun (AFP)--Rigoberto Buitrago, a National Guard lieutenant, today appealed to Nicaraguan militarymen to stop shooting at the people of Nicaragua. Buitrago was captured by the Sandinists when they seized the El Naranjo garrison. The appeal was made known here today by the Sandinist Front's Foreign Press and Propaganda Commission. The appeal was made in the form of a letter to the wives of militarymen. The letter asks them to convince their husbands that the members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FBLN] are Nicaraguans too. Buitrago's letter notes that he has been treated with respect and that he is in good health. I have been treated differently from what militarymen and their relatives believe, the letter states. Buitrago also notes that the FSLN does not permit torture. I have been told that no officer or soldier who surrenders will be mistreated, he said.

OFFICIALS UNABLE TO CONFIRM ARRIVAL OF BPR MEMBERS

PA040253 Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 4 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Havana, 3 Jun (AFP)--The possible arrival in Cuba of the 25 members of the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), who had occupied the French and Venezuelan Embassies in San Salvador, has not been confirmed in this capital tonight. Official sources here said they have received no information on the matter. According to earlier reports from San Salvador, the BPR members had reportedly left Panama this morning for Cuba aboard a Panamanian Air Force plane.

SURINAMESE DELEGATION VISITS CUBA

FLO21208 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Jun 79 FL

[Text] We are going to Cuba as friends and will return as brothers, (James Rangal), cultural director of Surinam's Education Ministry, has declared. (Rangal) yesterday left for Cuba accompanied by (Orlando Van Anson) of the same ministry for a meeting to prepare for Carifesta 79, the maximum Caribbean cultural event that will be held in Cuba in July. Surinam will participate in all Carifesta 79 activities and 150 persons from Surinam will visit our country.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MOLDAVIAN HEALTH MINISTRY

FLO21203 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Jun 79 FL

[Text] Cuban Public Health Minister Jose Gutierrez Muniz and his counterpart of the Moldavian Socialist Republic, Kiril Draganyuk, have signed an agreement in Havana on the talks they held during the visit to our country of the Soviet delegation which was invited by the Public Health Ministry. The agreement is a preliminary to a scientific and technical cooperation agreement which the health ministries of the two countries will sign before the end of the year.

On behalf of his delegation, Minister Kiril Draganyuk expressed gratitude for the facilities offered on their efforts to learn the progress of public health and general medical care in Cuba and the attentions accorded them during their visits to health institutions and agencies. Regarding his tour, the Moldavian health minister referred to the personnel of the psychiatric and pediatric hospitals in Havana. The conditions created at these hospitals, Kiril Draganyuk said, can only be achieved in a socialist country.

CONSTRUCTION COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH ALGERIA

FLO21648 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Jun 79 FL

[Text] Algiers--Algeria and Cuba today agreed to form an inter-governmental joint commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation. Levi Farah, minister-president of the Cuban State Committee for Construction, and Algerian Housing Minister Abdelmadjid Aouchiche signed the agreement. Algerian Ambassador to Cuba Bachir Ould-Rouis and Cuban Ambassador to Algeria Raul Barzaga attended the signing ceremony which was held at the (Muncat) Presidential Dining Hall. The commission, which is headed by Farah and Aouchiche for their respective countries, is the first of its type to be created between the two countries.

The signing of this document represents an important step to strengthen the relations that exist between the revolutions of Cuba and Algeria, Aouchiche asserted during the ceremony. For his part, Farah stressed the importance that Cuba attaches to its relations with Algeria. He further asserted that creation of the inter-governmental commission marks the beginning of a new phase in their bilateral relations. He also recalled the close ties of friendship that bind Cubans and Algerians and expressed gratitude for the demonstrations of solidarity he received during his official visit to that country.

An agreement also was signed during the ceremony covering the matters Farah discussed with Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, Aouchiche and the ministers of hydraulics, light industry and public works. Another agreement was signed between Cuba and Algerian state enterprises for the purpose of the construction of 1,000 housing units by Cuban technicians in the southern province of Biskra. The signed contracts also call for 100 Algerian technicians to come to Cuba shortly to take training and specialization courses in various branches of the construction sector.

Levi Farah Discusses Cooperation

FL041216 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Jun 79 FL

[Text] Levi Farah, minister-president of the Cuban State Committee for Construction, has told PRENSA LATINA that the establishment of the intergovernmental mixed commission between Algeria and Cuba is the appropriate manner in which to carry out cooperation. In the interview Farah, who arrived in Algeria on 25 May, referred to the most important aspects of his official working visit. The Cuban minister said that the Caribe construction enterprises group will work with Algerian entities in building 1,000 housing units in the region of Biskra, at the edge of the Saharan Desert.

The intergovernmental commission will hold its first meeting in February or March 1980. Levi Farah said that it is hoped many of the plans agreed to will have begun by that date. The intergovernmental mixed commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation is headed on the Algerian side by Algerian Housing Minister Abdelmadjid Aouchiche, who accompanied the Cuban delegation on its tour to various projects and sites of interest.

CUBA APPROVED AS SIXTH UNCTAD CONFERENCE HOST

FL011732 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Jun 79 FL

[Text] We have just received a report that Cuba has received the unanimous support of the participants in Manila's fifth UNCTAD Conference to host the sixth UNCTAD Conference to be held in 1983. The report adds that the fifth UNCTAD Conference today adopted a resolution welcoming with satisfaction Cuba's candidacy and stating that it will be submitted to the consideration of the UN General Assembly, which has to make the final decision.

MPSP CONDEMNS REPRESSION IN EL SALVADOR

FL012147 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2133 GMT 1 Jun 79 FL

[Text] The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples [MPSP] has released a statement in Havana City condemning the savage repression of the Salvadoran people by the tyrannical regime of Gen Carlos Humberto Romero. It notes that popular sectors of that Central American country are demanding the release of political prisoners, respect for human rights and the establishment of democratic freedoms in El Salvador. The statement emphasizes that in response to these demands the dictatorship massacred scores of peaceful demonstrators in front of the Venezuelan Embassy and metropolitan cathedral. In its statement, the MPSP expresses its unrestricted solidarity with the struggle of the Salvadoran people and their legitimate aspirations. It also condemns the tyrannical regime in power.

ANAP SUPPORTS NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE IN CARACAS

FLO12157 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 1 Jun 79 FL

[Text] The National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] has released a statement expressing its complete support for the holding of the international conference of solidarity with Nicaragua which will be held in the Venezuelan capital from 13 to 15 June. In its statement, ANAP calls on all Latin American and Caribbean peasant organizations to express their support for the conference because of its importance to the struggle being waged by the Nicaraguan people. It also reaffirms its conviction that the Somoza dynasty cannot stop the revolutionary movement led by the Sandinista National Liberation Movement and by all the patriots who are fighting on the frontline against the dictatorship.

DARIAS RECEIVES CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS

FLO11343 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1334 GMT 1 Jun 79 FL

[Text] Engineers Timotej Hill and (Jaroslav Jarni), director and deputy director, respectively, of the Standardization and Measurement Office of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic were received by Ramon Darias Rodes, minister president of Cuba's State Committee for Standardization. During the meeting Darias explained his organization's accomplishments, structure and future work.

NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM ESTABLISHED

FLO12324 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Jun 79 FL

[Text] For the first time Cuba today transmitted and received the most important news through the (IVM) communications system with the Intervention-member countries in Europe. (IVM) is an organization for the exchange of news among the socialist countries. It is an important ground communications network with headquarters in Prague, the Czechoslovak capital, to where the European nations transmit directly. In Cuba's case, communication is established from the center [as heard] to the satellite and from the latter to the country. The new communications system established in our country today offers the advantage of keeping up with the most important news of the world. Moreover, it offers the possibility for millions of Europeans to learn quickly the most significant events in Cuba.

SELF-EMPLOYED MUST REGISTER, PAY TAXES

FL251128 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 May 79 FL

[Text] All self-employed workers with or without licenses and who are satisfying the requirements and conditions established by Decree-Law 14 of 3 July 1978 must register with the taxpayers registry at the income department of the finance directorate of the people's municipal government corresponding to their place of residence. The registration first must be made from 1 to 30 June of this year and registrations and re-registrations must be made again in December of each year beginning this December.

Doctors, dentists and chiropractors who practiced these professions before the triumph of the revolution can exercise them by paying monthly quotas as taxes. A great number of self-employed workers also are authorized to work on their own nationally by making the proper payments. These include masons, water boys, craftsmen, barbers, taxi drivers, carpenters and others.

The people's municipal government finance directorates' income departments are authorized to demand at any time of the year a sworn statement on income obtained for any period they deem pertinent. State enterprises, budgeted units and political and social organizations cannot acquire products or receive services from self-employed workers if the latter are not on the taxpayers registry or are not up to date on their payments of taxes on their self-employment activity.

TERRORIST OFFENSIVE AGAINST COMMUNITY ABROAD CHARGED

FL021814 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Jun 79 FL

[Excerpt] (Raul Alzaga), member of the Executive Committee of the Antonio Maceo Brigade in the United States and Puerto Rico, has emphasized that there is a terrorist offensive against the members of the Cuban community abroad who favor dialog with the government of Cuba. At a news conference held at the Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples, (Alzaga) said that in the case of the assassination of Carlos Maniz, leader of the Cuban community in Puerto Rico, which occurred last month in San Juan, there are certain elements showing the existence of a conspiracy. He added that for this reason the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation should come into the case. He also asserted that the official investigations being made are going very slowly so far.

(Raul Alzaga) said the Puerto Rican group has been the one that has brought more members of the community to Cuba. Therefore, the reactionary terrorist sectors have unleashed their hysteria primarily on the Cuban community located in that Caribbean island. He added that certain reactionary personalities in Puerto Rican politics have manifested, by their deeds, their support for the counterrevolutionary terrorist groups and in their statements they try to distort the real situation. (Alzaga) pointed out that the leaders of the Antonio Maceo Brigade and of the Cuban community abroad have been receiving death threats and recently have been the victims of terrorist actions but such events do not frighten them and they will continue the policy of rapprochement with Cuba.

(Albor Ruiz), executive director of the Family Reunification Committee, also known as Committee of 75, attended the news conference. He charged that there is a reactionary campaign to make it appear that Cuba is not fulfilling the dialog so far as the release of prisoners who have committed counterrevolutionary crimes is concerned. He emphasized that agreements from the dialog are being fulfilled by the Cuban Government and proof of this is that so far Cuba has pardoned 1,913 prisoners and if they have not left the country it is because the U.S. Government has obstructed their emigration to North American territory.

FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA ARRIVES IN BONN

For coverage of Foreign Minister Malmierca's 2-day working visit to West Germany, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 4 June and subsequent issue of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

NO ACCORD BY IDB ON LOW INCOME GROUPS

FLO11930 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 May 79 p 1 FL

[Text] No agreement has been reached by the Inter-American Development Bank on the proper definition of low income groups as the 20th annual meeting of the bank's Board of Governors convened at the Rose Hall Inter-Continental Hotel in Montego Bay.

Jamaica's Finance Minister Eric Bell, newly elected IDB chairman, said at a press conference yesterday that the matter has been viewed as a very important issue by the Board of Governors. They agreed that the classification of "low-income group" has to be decided on so that the bank could decide on the disbursement of loans to Caribbean and Latin American countries.

According to Mr Bell, the bank's working group has been commissioned to do a further study, and he hoped that by early November an agreement would be reached.

Commenting on the progress of the meeting which ended its second day yesterday, Mr Bell said that no obstacles had been encountered and the general opinion of delegates of the 41 member-countries was that satisfactory progress had been made so far. All member-countries, he said, would continue to pay important attention to the lending policies.

The chairman said that the loans totalling (US) \$168 million streamlined for the Caribbean countries could be disbursed to all within a period of no longer than one year. Jamaican and West German delegates, he said, held discussions exchanging ideas on both countries' economy yesterday afternoon. He declined to say what turned the discussions took.

BAHAMAS

SHAH REPORTEDLY HAS DEPARTED, POSSIBLY FOR MEXICO

FLO21227 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 2 Jun 79 FL

[Text] [Words indistinct] news reports this morning that the shah of Iran has left the Bahamas, perhaps for Mexico. The Caribbean News Agency reported yesterday that the shah had been granted a visa to visit Mexico and was to have picked it up here in New Providence. Now today CANA quotes sources at Nassau international airport as saying that the shah and his wife Empress Farah have left for Costa Rica. However, a heavy guard is still being kept at the Villa where the shah has stayed for the last 8 weeks on Paradise Island.

DOMINICA

WORKERS CONTINUE STRIKE, PREMIER REFUSES TO RESIGN

FLO12018 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2008 GMT 1 Jun 79 FL

[Excerpt] A tense calm prevails on the Caribbean island of Dominica where thousands of workers are on the fourth consecutive day of a national strike, while Prime Minister Patrick John refuses to resign. In a message to the nation, Prime Minister John, whose government has been criticized for its ties with South Africa, accused opposition political parties of instigating the violence which resulted in two persons being killed on Tuesday. The Dominican Army fired on about 15,000 demonstrators in front of Parliament while the government was preparing to approve two unpopular laws prohibiting strikes in the public sector and press criticism of officials. The Dominican Army and police used firearms and tear gas against the demonstrators who belong to the five most powerful unions in the Antillean island, PRENSA LATINA emphasizes.

JAMAICA

NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER SCORES CRITICS OF POLICE

FL011935 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 May 79 p 19 FL

[Excerpts] The minister of national security, the Hon Dudley Thompson has hit out at confrontation which he said was becoming the order of the day in the country. He was addressing the 35th annual conference of the Police Federation on Monday morning at their headquarters on East Street in Kingston.

Mr Thompson said that he had noticed confrontation occurring throughout the country at "the drop of a hat." Declaring that he was not speaking politics, Mr Thompson said that this confrontation was being cultivated in certain quarters by some people in authority who prefer to challenge authority rather than respect it.

Confrontation, he said, was visible on the labour front and in the essential services where at the "drop of a hat" it would break out. "I say it is time for the Essential Services Act to be put into effect in this country." Mr Thompson stated that he hoped that the government and unions would see to it that whenever there were such strikes those responsible would be replaced from the army of unemployed.

Mr Thompson also spoke about the "bad-manism" of the confrontations. In reference to the demonstration on Monday morning outside the gates of King's House in support of the postponement of the pending executions, Mr Thompson remarked that here was a situation where the due process of the law was going to be administered. He then related how the men had been tried and found guilty and lost their appeals yet there were people who were demonstrating about human rights.

Declaring that the confrontations must stop, Mr Thompson reminded the audience that the police had the duty to maintain law and order. Confrontations in the form of demonstrations attracted malcontents and he was not going to allow malcontents to take charge and humbug the country. He appealed to policemen to be fair with demonstrators, counsel them, tell them that they had made their point and should now go home but at the same time they should be firm and not be intimidated by "bad-manism."

Dealing with criticisms of the police force, Mr Thompson challenged those who were writing "snide and dirty" things to leave the dark and come forward with evidence. "I will personally offer myself as cross-examiner for the police." He invited them to either "speak up or shut up." He also challenged those who claimed that there was a death squad "to stand up now and say so."

These allegations only served to sap the moral fibre of the police, he said; the minister also defended the commissioner of police, Mr Desmond Campbell from a certain "two and six" columnist who had cast aspersions him. "When you say the police commissioner is not above suspicions you are walking on very dangerous grounds," he said, adding that aspersions about the commissioner were aspersions against the entire force. Mr Thompson spoke about Mr Campbell's qualities which had taken him through "30 years of storm and hardship up through the force.

Mr Thompson appealed to the policemen to treat the public fairly and courteously as the police needed their support in the execution of their duties. The minister said there would be no cover up in the force and the bad policemen would be weeded out.